

To the Members of the California Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 744 (Kuehl) without my signature. This bill is unnecessary because the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is already working to improve the public's access to timber harvest plans (THPs) through a pilot internet access program. Because I support improving the public's access to information, CDF initiated this program. Accomplishing this through regulations assures that it will be implemented in an efficient and effective manner.

Many documents contained in THP's are not submitted in digital form because the information provider used maps that were not digitalized or lacks the technology to convert this detailed information. The prescriptive nature of this bill could interfere with CDF's ability to test the practical aspects of converting documents to an electronic format and displaying them on the internet.

For these reasons, I must return this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger